

**CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGY AGENCY**

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April 1, 2011

Sharon Gillett, Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 02-60; Request of California Telehealth Network for Additional Rural Health Care Pilot Program Funding

Dear Chief Gillett:

I am writing a letter of support on behalf of the California Telehealth Network (CTN), a statewide telehealth project. The California Technology Agency holds a seat on the Board of the California Telehealth Network. The CTN is our premier telehealth project in our state, and has an ambitious goal of interconnecting more than 850 health care providers by broadband in order to enable telehealth applications. Included in those providers are rural health care facilities, tribal health care clinics, and community clinics and hospitals. We are proud that CTN has made telehealth applications a reality in our State with 24 health care provider sites already connected by high speed broadband and with another 825 sites approved for connection in the coming months. Telehealth improves the quality of care for our rural and medically underserved populations, and uses technology to realize cost efficiencies for health care applications.

On March 15, 2011, CTN requested additional funding over eight years of \$90.9 million from the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I am writing to lend the California Technology Agency's strong support to this request. The new requested funding is to add an additional 1,100 eligible health care providers to the network. More sites enhance the sustainability and reach of our nation-leading project. Additional funding will also allow the CTN to have a redundant connection in Sacramento to an Internet Point of Presence to ensure the system stays up should something fail at the current single Point of Presence. Finally, CTN would like to connect to other Rural Health Care Pilot Programs' systems -- such as Oregon's Health Network, Colorado Telehealth Network and the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid -- to share resources, best practices, and be ready for major disasters. I ask that the FCC give this request full consideration in light of the substantial benefits that will occur in our State

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Quinlan".

Christy Quinlan
Acting Secretary of California Technology

CQ/lg